

TOWN OF IPSWICH - MASSACHUSETTS  
Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectmen  
Tuesday May 3, 2016  
Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in room A of the Ipswich Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Linda Alexson, Charles Surpitski, Michael Lambros, Brenda Turner, Wayne Castonguay and David Swicker. Also present were Shellfish Constable Scott LaPreste, Police Chief Paul Nikas and Recording Secretary Marie Rodgers. Bill Craft was not present.

**Citizen's Queries** – Constable LaPreste introduced Katie Lotterhos, Assistant Professor at Northeastern Marine Science Center and Alan Downey-Wall, Graduate Student also from Northeastern University. Proposal was submitted to members (not incorporated)

The experiment would entail the collection of 270 American oysters from the Ipswich shellfish beds, brought back to the lab to conduct experiments related to environmental stress; specifically, effects of ocean acidification. A second experiment will be conducted with oysters from the Cape Cod area. Permission from MA DMF is pending. Committee members expressed concerns regarding the number of oysters, location of the harvesting and protecting the resource. Discussion was held regarding the oyster population and location source and oyster size. Professor Lotterhos, spoke to the goals of the experiments; how organisms respond to stress, how organisms acclimate and to discovering Geno types in the population that are more resilient to acidic conditions and preserving those areas. The aim is to create a stress map according to DNA and find the genetic basis for adaptation to coastal stressors.

Professor Lotterhos offered to reduce the collection of oysters to 220, in response to the Committee's concerns regarding the quantity to be taken.

**•MOTION:**

**Mr. Castonguay moved to recommend the Board of Selectmen approve the request and harvest from prohibited areas only. Mr. Lambros seconded. Discussion was held regarding harvest locations. Ms. Turner amended the motion to exclude harvesting from Eagle Hill River area. Mr. Lambros seconded, the amended motion passed unanimously in favor.**

On the Committee's behalf, Ms. Alexson thanked Professor Lotterhos and Alan Downey-Wall for the presentation and anticipate their return with their results.

**Constable's Report**

Constable LaPreste announced rule changes. He reported the last tests on the Ipswich River were extremely clean; this looks good when the 'feds' audit the river. He hasn't talked with Kevin (McHugh), he's not sure of the testing schedule with regards to Farley Brook. He expects a round of testing will take place within the month.

Three Green Crab trappers are ready and will start trapping pending the Board of Selectmen approval. Ms. Turner initiated discussion concerning the dangerous situation of crab traps left in the water and stuck in the mud; she described a trap, abandoned, not marked that she almost hit it with her boat. She suggested trappers should be required to take them out; trappers need to be accountable for their gear. Mr. Swicker agreed, saying he hit a few located in the Eagle Hill area and the Bluffs, toward Stacys'.

Discussion was held and Chief Nikas indicated that abandon traps fall under navigation, under the authority of the Harbormaster. He spoke to the cost to go find them; abandon and buried nets were discussed, as well. Constable LaPreste offered to pull them out; he thanked Ms. Turner, saying he wasn't aware.

Constable LaPreste announced there will be a 'task day' before the end of May; placing crushed stone at Patterson's Landing.

In response to Ms. Alexson, Constable reported that all public-aquaculture areas are open; Eagle Hill Cove is open for public harvest.

It was reported that there are old nets on Nibble nub; Constable said removing old nets was a good idea for a task.

#### **Private aquaculture discussion (review of procedures and regulations)**

Ms. Alexson reviewed a previous SAB discussion and vote in favor for private aquaculture of three to two. Chief submitted and reviewed procedures for the next lottery process. (not incorporated)

Ms. Alexson question #8 “keeping a list on file” and discussion ensued relative to the purpose of the list and designated length of time. Chief spoke to grant activity and once a grant is terminated; the flat goes back to public use. The intent of private grants was discussed; if flats are vibrant after a grant, no further grants are issued. Members discussed the two current grants. Ms. Turner said one is abandoned, nets are left everywhere. And subject turned to the cleaning up the grant areas and the need for enforcement as outlined in the regulations.

Ms. Alexson returned to the question of keeping a list of prospective grant holders chosen in the lottery; the members agreed to eliminate the list. Biodegradable nets were discussed and the possibility of requiring biodegradable material in the regulations, replacing nets with burlap, it was argued is not realistic, not cost effective. Ms. Turner will look into the cost of burlap.

Ms. Alexson returned to the question of keeping a list; it was agreed, after the lottery was held to eliminate the list; the date for the lottery was discussed.

At the next meeting, Ms. Alexson will provide language, to eliminate the list after the lottery, for the member’s vote, for Board of Selectmen approval.

#### **New/Old Business:**

- Ms. Alexson reviewed two grant reports submitted by the two grant holders (not incorporated). Constable indicated Evan Parker did not pay his fees and the grant is invalid. Notification letters will be pursued.
- Ms. Alexson followed up on the new commercial shellfish licenses with misprinted language; she spoke with the Town clerk who said they were printed last July and would be a huge undertaking to reprint at this time. Until new ones are printed, a sticker with correct information will be placed on the licenses.
- Chief reported on the Pet Waste Project – he spoke with DEP about creating an informational brochure regarding the importance of picking up after your dog. They sent him a link to EPA with tools to generate an educational pamphlet for Ipswich. If the Board is interested, he’ll join in to help. Mr. Castonguay said there is a regional group that does this service and would create a brochure as part of the Town’s membership; it would be a lot easier and less work. No action was taken.
- The Committee agreed that the ‘green crab summit’ meeting would be better organized if held in the fall.
- Mr. Swicker donated a bronzed clam from 1930, to be exhibited in Town Hall display case.

#### **Approval of minutes:**

Mr. Lambros moved to approve the meeting minutes from March and April meetings. Mr. Castonguay seconded, the motion passed unanimously in favor.

**Next Meeting** –Tuesday June 7, 2016 @ 7:00 PM in Room TBD Adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Respectfully submitted, M. Rodgers